GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1772
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2007
MONITORING AUTHORITY FOR HISTORICAL SITES
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any concrete programme or authority to monitor protection of historical sites in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any report on the protection of monument has been submitted earlier by any authority;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken on such a report?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to(c) Yes, Sir. Under the provision of Section 4 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958; ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains which are of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years can be declared by Archaeological Survey of India as monuments of national importance through notification in the official gazette of India. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) looks after the maintenance, conservation and preservation of the protected monuments in accordance with archaeological norms, subject to availability of resources. Currently 3667 monuments are protected and maintained by ASI.

(d)to(f) Yes, Sir. An expert group headed by Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, Hon`ble Member of Parliament submitted a report on Archaeology in 1984. In this report, out of 81 recommendations, 54 have been implemented. The details of the important recommendations are at Annexure.